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CLAIMS

1.   A method of sequencing a plurality of candidate vehicles, wherein each candidate vehicle in said plurality of candidate vehicles is a candidate to be allocated the next place in a sequence, said method comprising the steps of:

(i)   receiving information pertaining to one of said candidate vehicles;

(ii)   calculating a value to be attributed to said candidate vehicle on the basis of said received information and information received from the candidate vehicle most recently allocated a place in said sequence;

(iii)   repeating steps (i) and (ii) for each of said candidate vehicles;

(iv)   selecting one of said candidate vehicles based on said attributed values; and

(v)   allocating said selected candidate vehicle the next place in said sequence.

2.   A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said vehicles are aircraft.

3.   A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said sequence is the landing sequence.

4.   A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein said received information is received from the candidate vehicle to which said received information pertains.

5.   A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein said received information includes information relating to the size of the candidate vehicle to which said information pertains.

6.   A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein said value is representative of the spacing that would have to be maintained between the candidate vehicle and the candidate vehicle most recently allocated a place in said sequence if said candidate vehicle were allocated the next place in the sequence.

7.   A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein said value is representative of the delay that would be experienced by said candidate vehicle if said candidate vehicle was allocated the next place in the sequence.

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8.   A   method of operating a sequencing apparatus to sequence a plurality of candidate vehicles, wherein each candidate vehicle in said plurality of candidate vehicles is a candidate to be allocated the next place in a sequence, said method comprising the steps of:

5   (i)   receiving information pertaining to one of said candidate vehicles;

(ii)   calculating a value to be attributed to said candidate vehicle on the basis of said received information and information received from the candidate vehicle most recently allocated a place in said sequence;

(iii)   repeating steps (i) and (ii) for each of said candidate vehicles;

10   (iv)   selecting one of said candidate vehicles based on said attributed values; and

(v)   allocating said selected candidate vehicle the next place in said sequence.

9.   A method as claimed in claim 8 further comprising the step of:

(vi)   sending details of the next place in said sequence to said selected candidate

15   vehicle.

10.   A method as claimed in claim 8 or 9, wherein said vehicles are aircraft.

11.   A   method   as   claimed   in   claim   10,   wherein   said   sequence   is   the   landing

20   sequence.

12.   Sequencing apparatus arranged in operation to sequence a plurality of candidate vehicles, wherein each candidate vehicle in said plurality of candidate vehicles is a candidate to be allocated the next place in a sequence, said data processing apparatus

25   comprising:

receiving means for receiving information pertaining to one of said candidate vehicles;

calculating means for calculating a value to be attributed to said candidate vehicles on the basis of said received information and information received from the

30   candidate vehicle most recently allocated a place in said sequence;

selecting means for selecting one of said candidate vehicles based on said attributed values; and

allocating means for allocating said selected candidate vehicle the next place in said sequence.

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13.   Sequencing apparatus arranged in operation to sequence a plurality of candidate vehicles, wherein each candidate vehicle in said plurality of candidate vehicles is a candidate to be allocated the next place in a sequence, said data processing apparatus comprising:

5   a receiver arranged in operation to receive information pertaining to one of said candidate vehicles;

a calculator arranged in operation to calculate a value to be attributed to said candidate vehicles on the basis of said received information and information received from the candidate vehicle most recently allocated a place in said sequence;

10   a selector arranged in operation to select one of said candidate vehicles based on said attributed values; and

an allocator arranged in operation to allocate said selected candidate vehicle the next place in said sequence.

15 14.   Sequencing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said vehicles are aircraft.

15.   Sequencing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said sequence is the landing sequence.

20 16.   A digital data carrier carrying a program of instructions executable by processing apparatus to perform the method steps as set out in any one of claims 1 to 7.